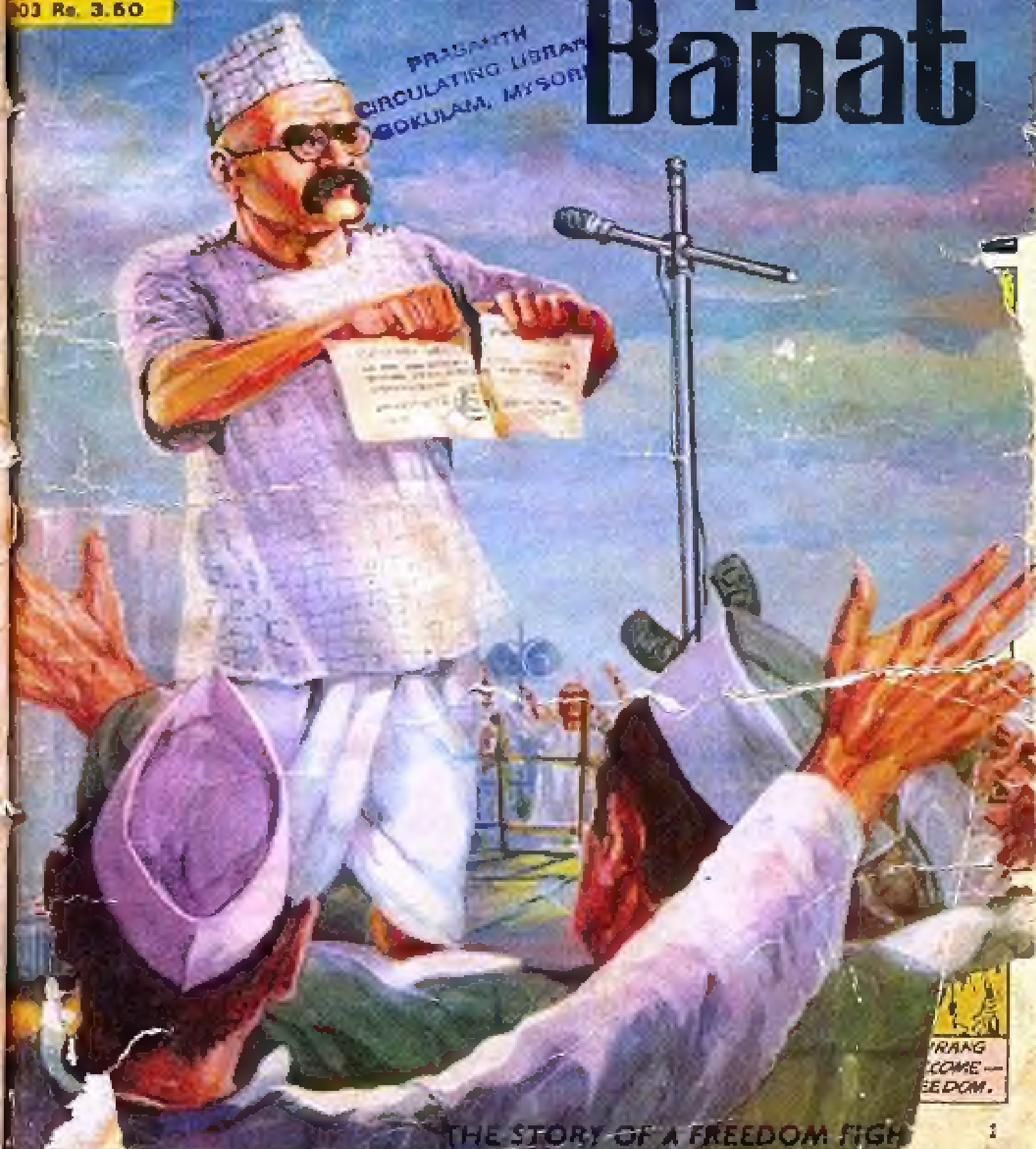


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Senapati Bapat

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THE STORY OF A FREEDOM FIGHT

Amar Chitra Katha

No. 303, February 1, 1984

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Senapati Bapat

Senapati Bapat or Tatya, as he affectionately called, was born November 12, 1880, at Pamer in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

He took the oath of poverty when he was a college student and thenceforth gave himself up entirely to the cause of the motherland.

Though he believed in violence as a means to a noble end, he was not averse to peaceful methods but took the course only if they worked. This was Senapati's greatest attribute — catholicity of outlook and openness of mind. He had the courage to criticise even Gandhiji if he thought him to be wrong, but the next moment, he would fast with the Mahatma if he considered the cause was good. The cause, not the man, was what mattered to Senapati — the high ideal he followed all through his life.

We are grateful to Shri Vaman Bapat for sparing his precious time to go through the text and works of this title and for offering valuable suggestions.

— Editor

OUR NEXT RELEASE ON

February 15, 1984

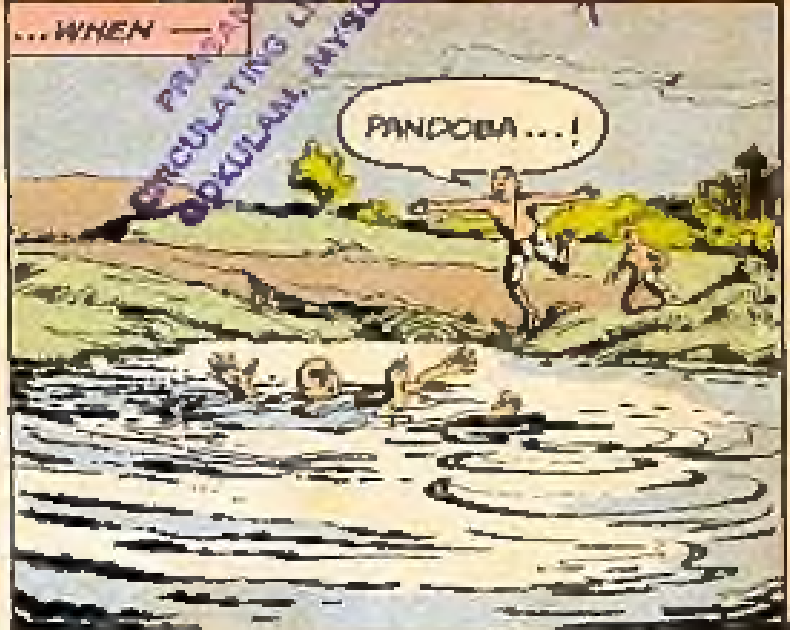
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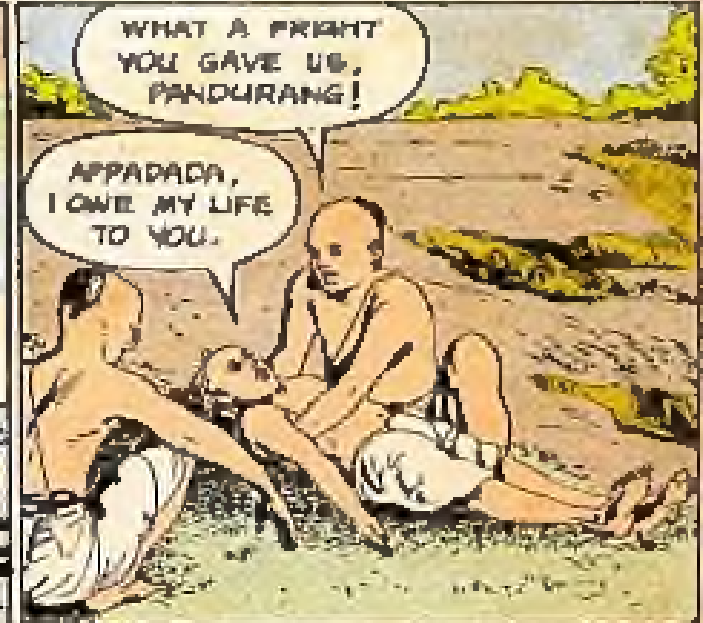
MANAPATI BAPAT



THREE YOUNG BOYS WERE ONCE PLAYING IN A POND AT PARNER...



ONE OF THEM KNEW HOW TO SWIM.

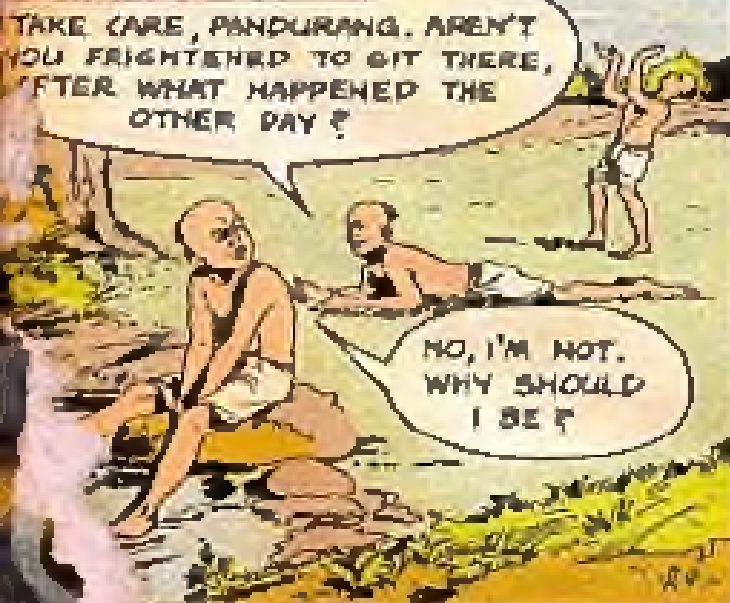


WHAT A FRIGHT YOU GAVE US, PANDURANG!

APPADADA, I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU.

SOME DAYS LATER —

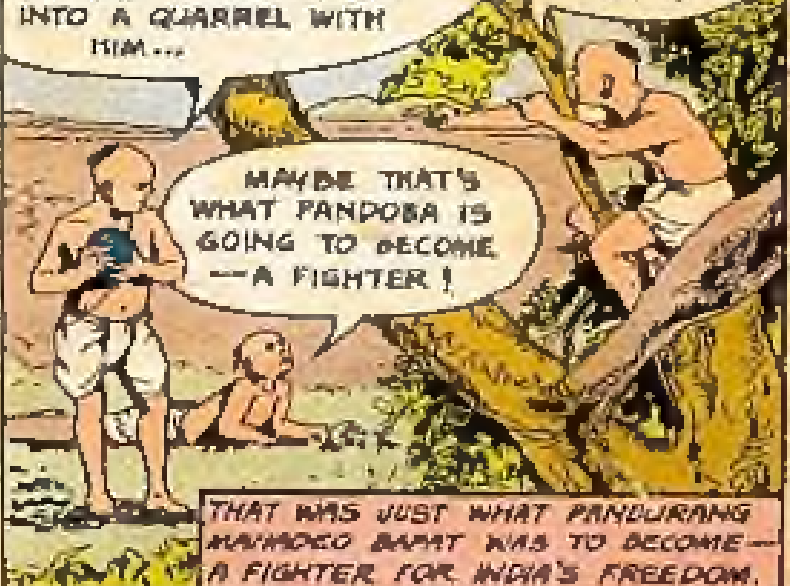
TAKE CARE, PANDURANG. AREN'T YOU FRIGHTENED TO GET THERE, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY?



NO, I'M NOT. WHY SHOULD I BE?

OH... NOTHING CAN FRIGHTEN HIM! IF YOU EVER GOT INTO A QUARREL WITH HIM...

...BANG, BANG, BANG!



MAYBE THAT'S WHAT PANDORA IS GOING TO BECOME — A FIGHTER!

THAT WAS JUST WHAT PANDURANG HANDEO BAPAT WAS TO BECOME — A FIGHTER FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM.

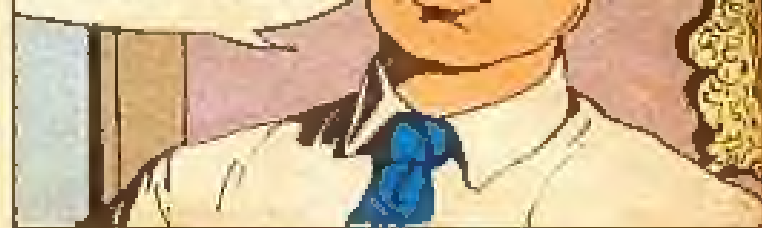
THE PRICE FOR SPEAKING OUT

ON JANUARY 14, 1906, A MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY* WAS BEING HELD AT EDINBURGH IN SCOTLAND. ONE OF THE SPEAKERS WAS BAPAT; HIS SUBJECT, BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

FRIENDS, BRITISH RULE IN INDIA IS THE WORST ONE CAN THINK OF FOR A SUBJECT NATION. IT IS THE WORST FORM OF EVIL FOR US INDIANS, FOR EVEN THE BRITONS, OUR RULERS, AND FOR THE HUMAN RACE.



IN THE INTERESTS OF THE HUMAN RACE AND IN PURSUANCE OF JUSTICE FOR OUR MILLIONS AND IN ORDER TO SAVE THE BRITONS THEMSELVES FROM DEGENERATING INTO ADJECT SERVANTS OF THE DEVIL, WE HAVE MADE UP OUR MIND TO GET BACK OUR FREEDOM... WE ARE CONFIDENT OF ULTIMATE VICTORY.



CONGRATULATIONS, BAPAT. THAT WAS A FINE SPEECH!

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.



BUT BAPAT'S INDIAN COLLEAGUES WERE SHOCKED.

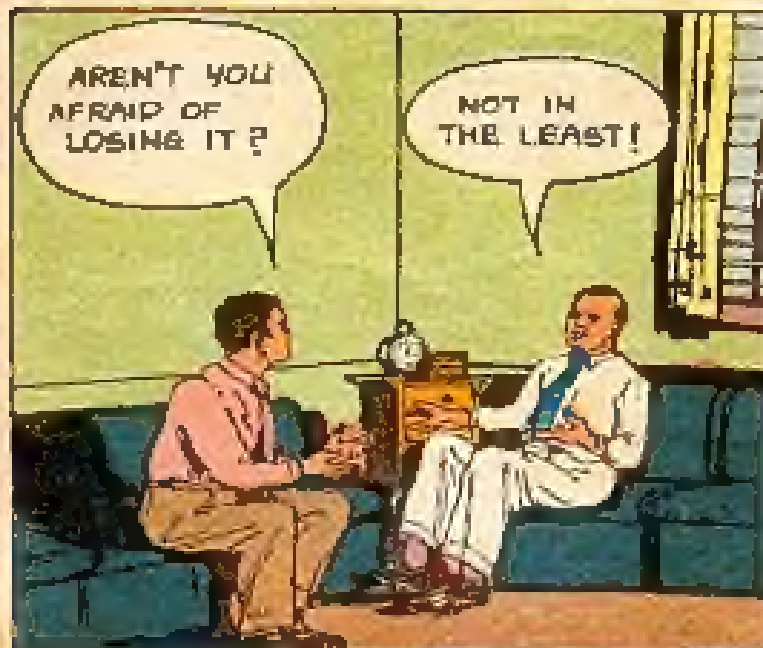
BAPAT, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? IF THE BRITISH IN INDIA COME TO KNOW OF YOUR SPEECH...

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE HERE ON A SCHOLARSHIP?



AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF LOSING IT?

NOT IN THE LEAST!



SOMETIMES, SPEAKING OUT BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVERYTHING ELSE. AND I'M GLAD I DID.



BUT BAPAT HAD TO PAY THE PRICE FOR DOING SO—HE LOST HIS SCHOLARSHIP.

BAPAT BRINGS THE BOMB TO INDIA

FROM EDINBURGH, BAPAT WENT TO LONDON AND THEN CAME TO PARIS.



HE HAD COME TO PARIS WITH A PURPOSE — TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE BOMBS. DEDICATED RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARIES WERE HIS INSTRUCTORS.

THE MAIN BASE OF THE BOMB IS A CHEMICAL KNOWN AS PICRIC ACID...



IN THE MEANWHILE, BAPAT ALSO MANAGED TO GET A RUSSIAN MANUAL ON BOMB-MAKING. A RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY, ANNA KLAUS, TRANSLATED IT INTO ENGLISH FOR HIM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, ANNA.

IT WAS MY PLEASURE, BAPAT.



BAPAT MADE TWENTY COPIES OF THE MANUAL TO DISTRIBUTE AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES, HEMACHANDRA DAS, V. P. SAWARKAR AND OTHERS. HE ALSO RESOLVED IN HIS USUAL FEARLESS MANNER TO EXPLODE A BOMB IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS!

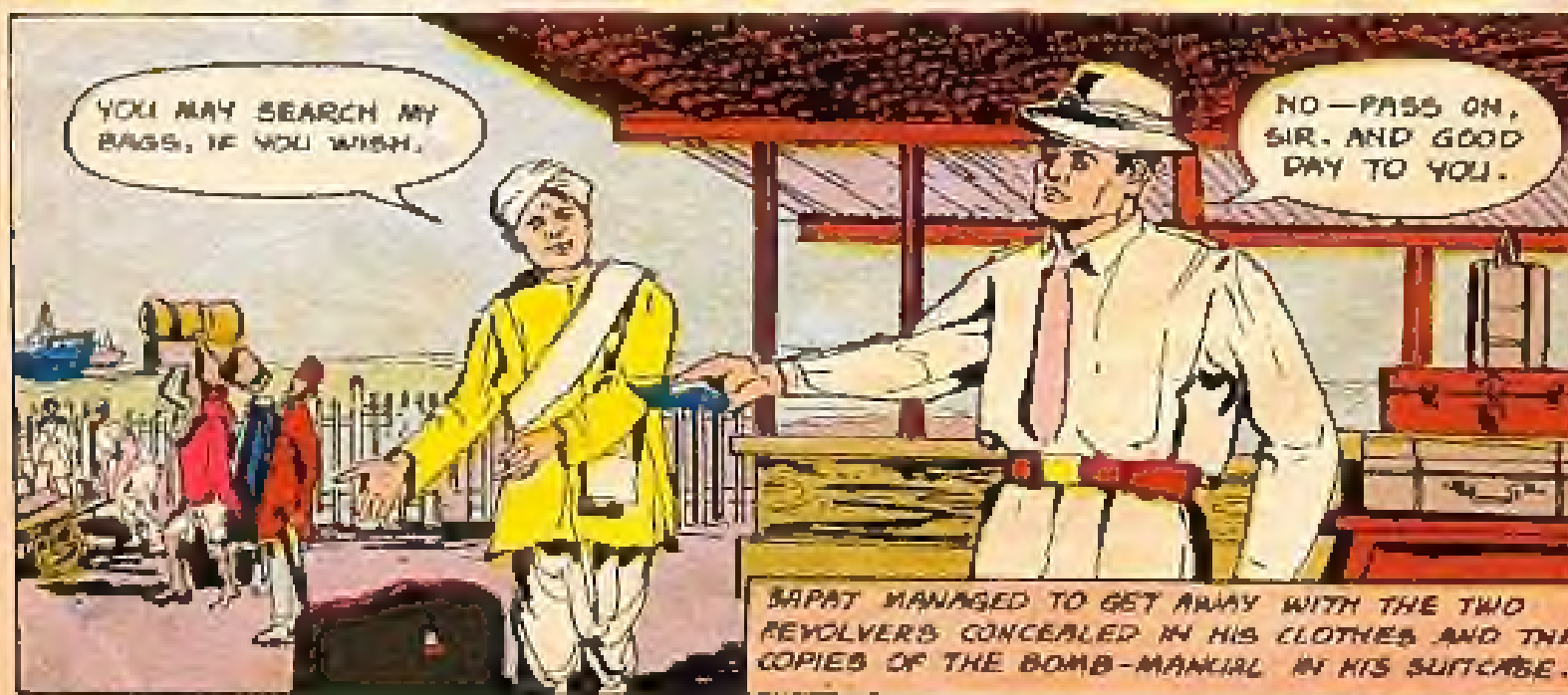
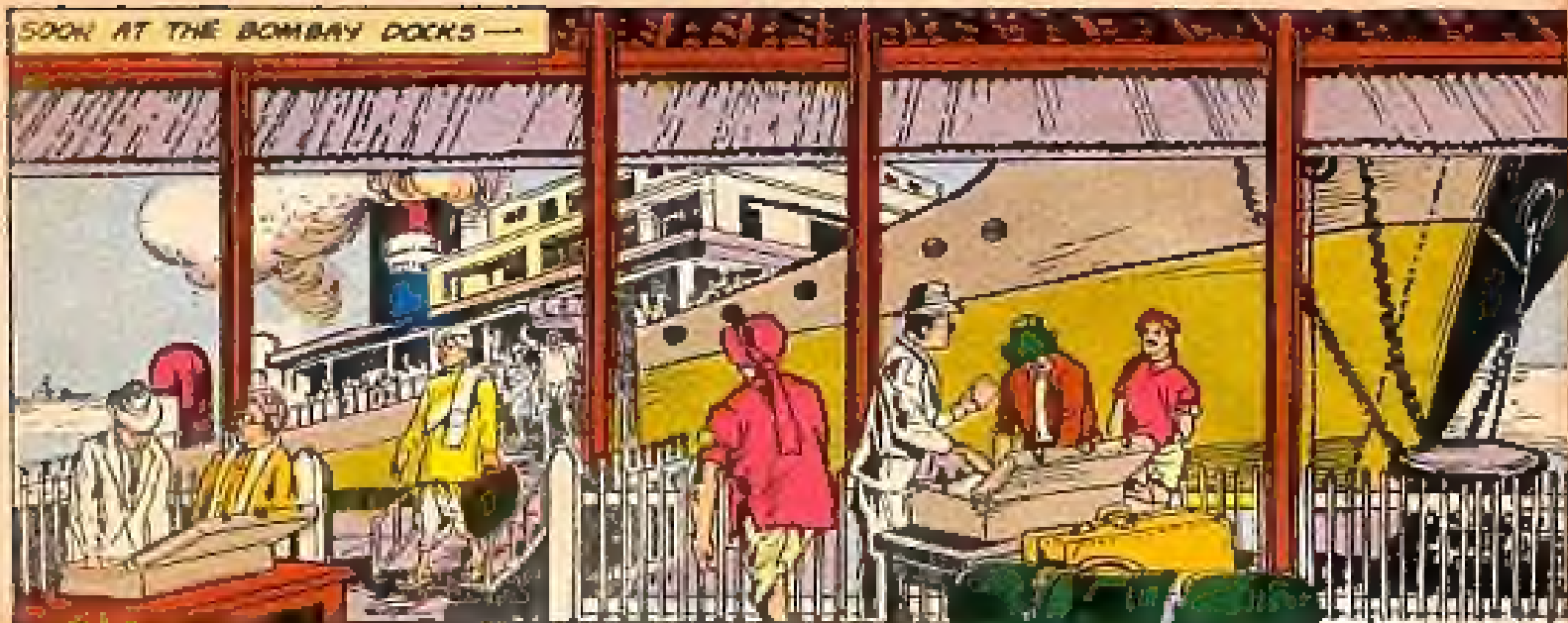


BUT SAWARKAR DISSUADED HIM FROM DOING THIS.

GO BACK HOME, INSTEAD, BAPAT, AND TEACH OUR YOUTH TO MAKE BOMBS.

YES... YOU ARE RIGHT. I WILL RETURN TO INDIA.





THESE COPIES WERE SOON DISTRIBUTED. LATER BAPAT WENT TO CALCUTTA TO MEET HIS COLLEAGUE, HEMACHANDRA DAS.



THE TWO FRIENDS PARTED AND A WORRIED BAPAT LEFT BENGAL.

SOON, IN WHAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE MANIKTOLA BOMB CASE, TWO YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES EXPLODED A BOMB.



THE PAPERS REPORTED IT ALL.



AT PUNE —

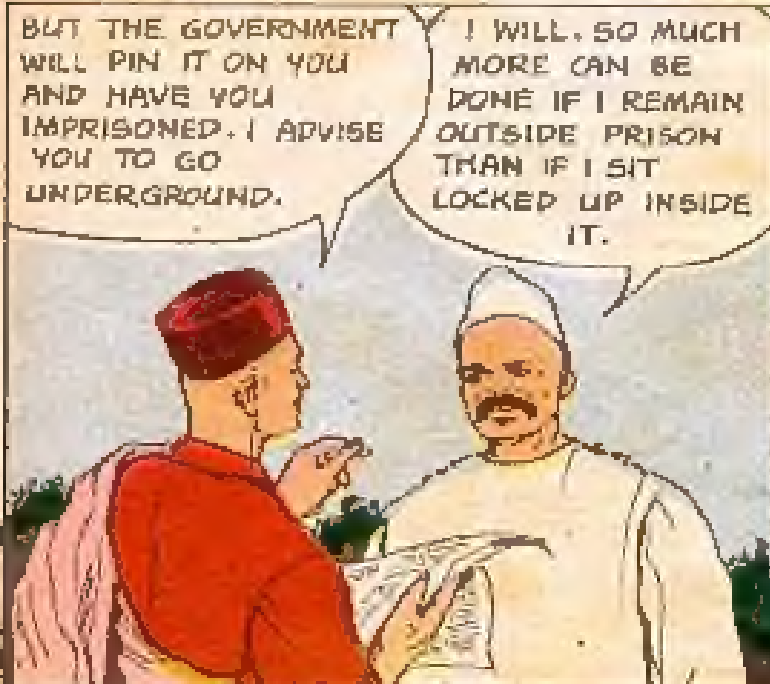
BAPAT, ONE OF THE ACCUSED AT THE TRIAL HAS MENTIONED THAT YOUR VISIT TO CALCUTTA WAS CONNECTED WITH THE BOMB INCIDENT.

THAT IS ABSURD. I HAD NO HAND IN IT.



BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PIN IT ON YOU AND HAVE YOU IMPRISONED. I ADVISE YOU TO GO UNDERGROUND.

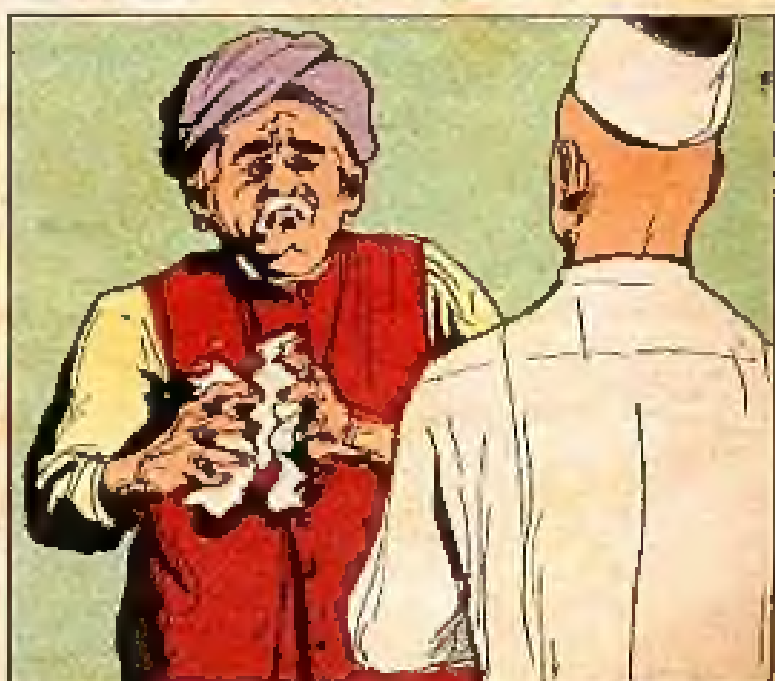
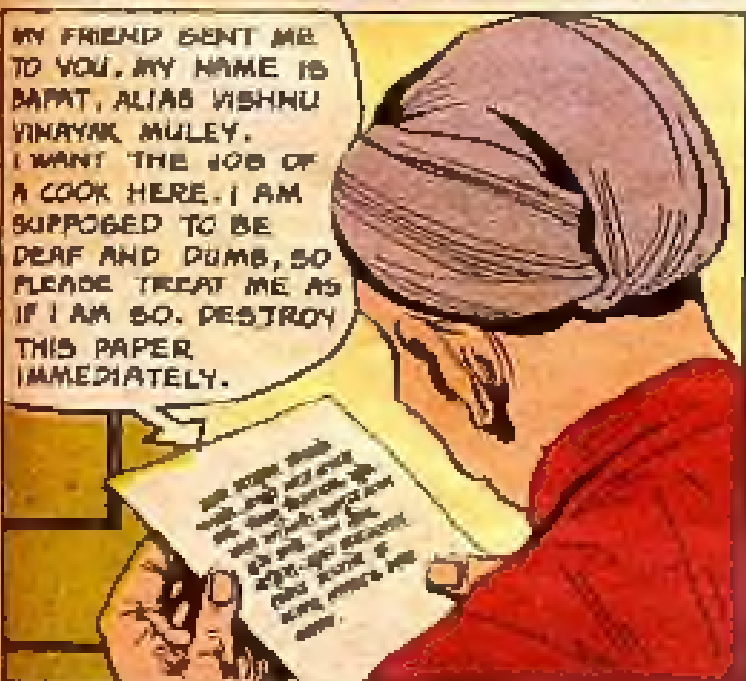
I WILL. SO MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE IF I REMAIN OUTSIDE PRISON THAN IF I SIT LOCKED UP INSIDE IT.



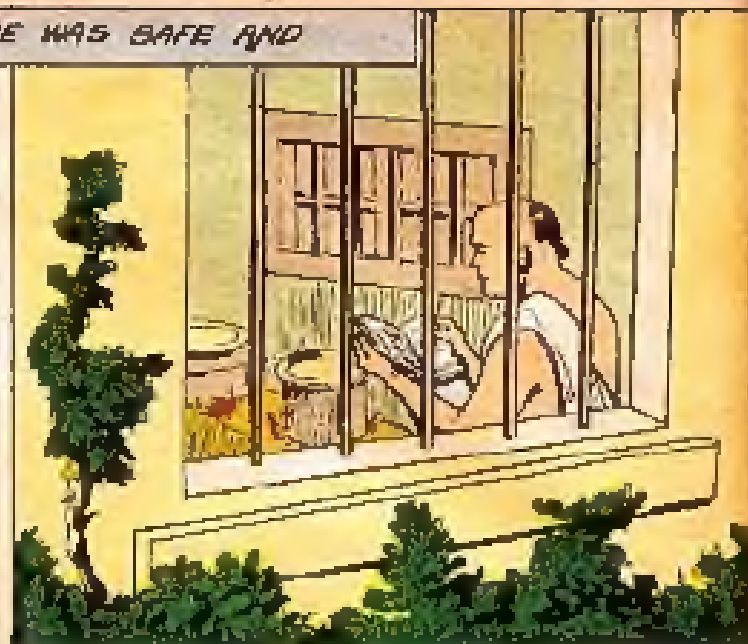
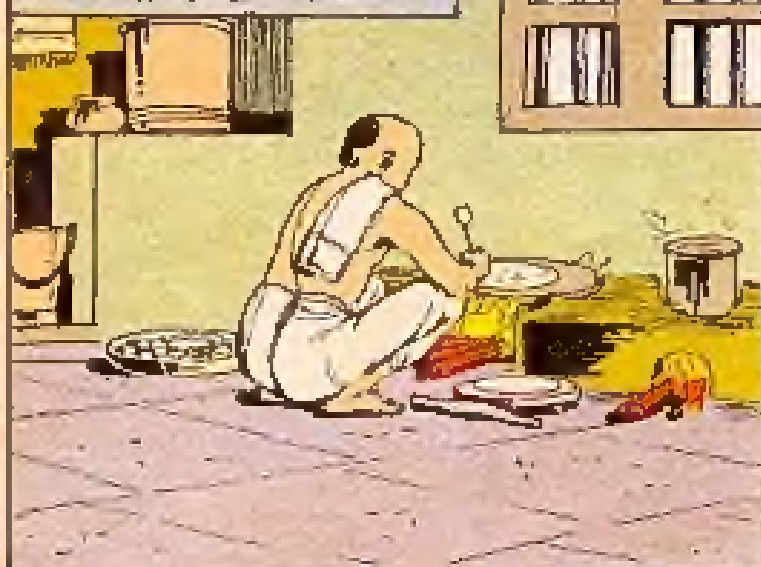
SO BAPAT, THE MAN WHO HAD INTRODUCED THE BOMB INTO INDIA, WAS NOW ON THE RUN.



ONE DAY, A STRANGER CAME TO THE TOWN OF AIRANGABAD.



AND SO FOR TEN MONTHS BAPAT THOUGHT HE WAS SAFE AND LIVED A QUIET LIFE.



BUT THE POLICE WERE NOT ASLEEP!



THE POLICE OFFICIAL BEGAN TO KEEP A WATCH ON THE COOK.





BAPAT RESCUES A CASTAWAY

FOR A WHILE, BAPAT STAYED WITH A FRIEND AT BADHUKHANI. THERE HE MET SITABAI, WIFE OF ANOTHER FRIEND.

SITABAI, YOU LOOK UNHAPPY. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

BAPAT SAHEB WHEN YOUR FRIEND MARRIED ME I WAS A WIDOW. I HAD A DAUGHTER BY MY FIRST MARRIAGE. HER NAME IS MALATI.

HAD ENTRUSTED HER TO A WOMAN NAMED TANIBAI, WHO HAS TURNED OUT TO BE UNSCRUPULOUS. I AM NOW AFRAID TANIBAI WILL SPOIL MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE

THINK ALL THE TIME OF MY YOUNG CHILD -- AND YET, TO BRING HER HERE TO MY NEW HUSBAND'S HOUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

SITABAI, I KNOW WHAT TO DO I WILL FILE A SUIT FOR THE CUSTODY OF MALATI.

BUT YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY HIDDEN AT ALL COSTS.. YOU WILL BE RISKING TOO MUCH

BUT BAPAT, OR VAIIDYA AS HE WAS NOW CALLED, WENT TO DHAR AND FILED THE SUIT AGAINST TANIBAI

BUT BAPAT NEEDED MONEY TO STAY ON AT DHAR TILL THE CASE WAS DECIDED SO

SIR, IS THERE A VACANCY FOR THE POST OF A TEACHER IN YOUR SCHOOL?

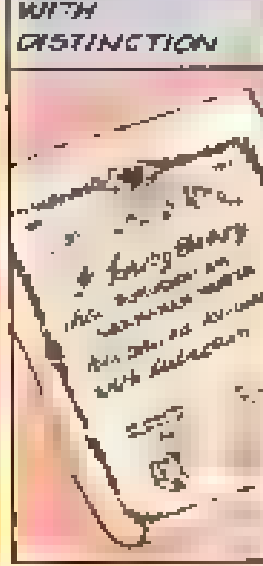
THERE IS VAIDYA AND THE JOB IS YOURS, BUT PLEASE PRODUCE A CERTIFICATE TO SAY THAT YOU ARE A MATRICULATE

MY CERTIFICATE IS IN THE NAME OF PANDURAM BAPAT. I'LL NEED A NEW CERTIFICATE IN MY NEW NAME HM-M-...

AND SO AT 51 BAPAT APPEARED AGAIN FOR THE MATRIC EXAMINATION...

SECURED A FIRST CLASS WITH DISTINCTION

GOT HIS JOB ..



... AND EVENTUALLY, THE CUSTODY OF MALATI.

MY CHILD, GO - TELL YOUR VAIDYAMAMA HOW GRATEFUL YOU ARE!

VAIDYAMAMA! MY VAIDYAMAMA!



BAPAT SAW THAT MALATI WAS WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

BAPAT RETURNS HOME

FROM BATHMANI, BAPAT MOVED TO
BATHMANI

WHAT BEAUTY!
WHAT PEACE! HERE BY
THE GANGES, HOW FAR
AWAY THOSE DAYS
SEEM WHEN I WAS
ASSOCIATED WITH
THE GURD!

THOSE SIMPLE WOMEN
DO NOT EVEN KNOW OF
THE FLIGHT THEY ARE
IN!

THAT SMALL SELLER MAY
VAGUELY KNOW THAT HE IS
BEING RULED BY WHITE
MEN BUT IS HE BOTHERED
BY IT?

NO! THEY ARE JUST
NOT AWARE! EVEN
PEOPLE MUST FIRST
BE WOKEN UP,
STIRRED INTO
MASS REBELLION.

THE BOMB MEANS
NOTHING TILL THAT
AWAKENING TAKES
PLACE

FOR OVER FOUR YEARS BABRY MANAGED TO
EVASD THE POLICE. BUT, FINALLY, A FRIEND
BETRAYED HIM AND HE WAS ARRESTED



NOW, BABRY, YOU ARE
ORDERED TO GIVE A
STATEMENT OF ALL
THAT YOU DID SINCE
YOU WENT UNDER-
GROUND.

WILL
NOT!



IS NOT THE
DISTRIBUTION OF
THE BOMB-MATERIAL
IN THE COUNTRY
YOUR DOING?

I WILL NOT
ANSWER



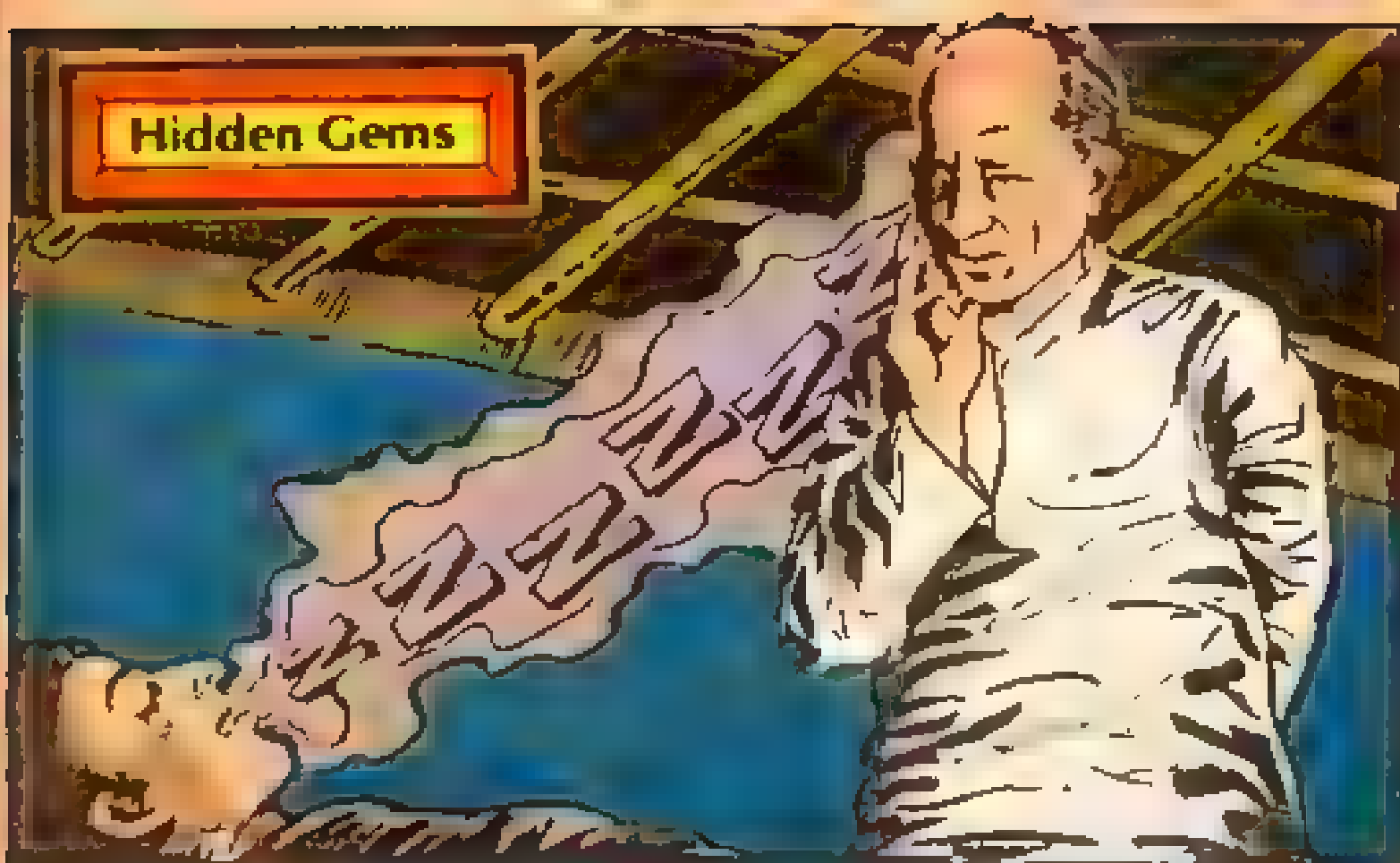
LATER, AT DELHI

DO YOU FAVOUR
THE ACT OF
BOMB OUTRAGE?

BOMB OUTRAGE? YOU
MEAN THE PEOPLE'S
RIGHT TO ARM
THEMSELVES AND
OVERTHROW THE
YOKES ON THEM?



Hidden Gems



The Man who snored

Once, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was on a visit to Madras he stayed at a friend's house, near the beach.

One night, tired after a busy day, he lay down, hoping to get a good night's rest. But try as he might, he could not fall asleep. What kept him awake, he soon realized, was a rumbling sound coming from beyond his room. He rose and went outside to find out what it could be. There on the verandah lay a young man. He was fast asleep, and he was snoring!

Pandit went to his host and requested him to ask the young man to sleep elsewhere or to allow him to shift his own bedding to the sea-shore.

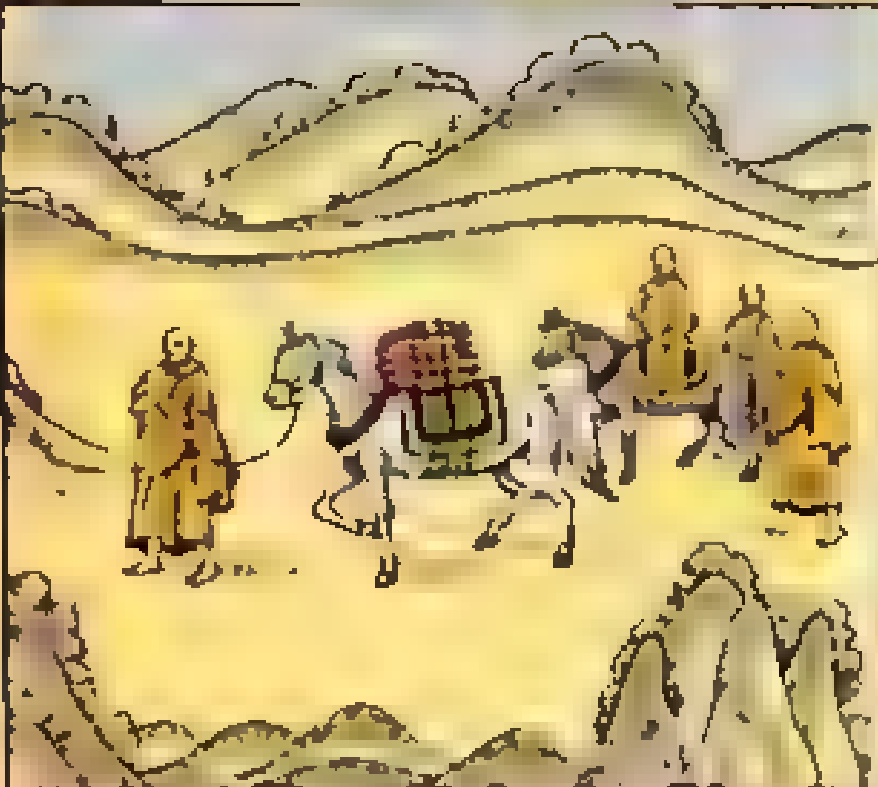
Years later, on that very sea-shore, Pandit Nehru unveiled the statue of a renowned Indian.

And that Indian was none other than the young man who had once disturbed Pandit's sleep. Shri Kamara, Nadar, who as President of the Indian National Congress played an important role in the affairs of our country.

By : P B Shaktivel - MADRAS

THOSE WHO WENT TO CHINA

Large Sanskrit Characters
Illustrated by L. E. P. P.



AS EARLY AS 65 A.D. TWO BUDDHIST MONKS
DHARMAPALA AND KASHYAPA MATHANA, MADE
THE PERILIOUS JOURNEY TO CHINA CARRYING
BAGGED BUNDLES ON A WHITE HORSE



THEY WERE WELCOMED BY THE
CHINESE EMPEROR MINUS TI HING BUT
A MONASTERY WAS THEN CALLED IT
THE WHITE HORSE MONASTERY



AFTER THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED BUDDHIST
MONKS FROM OUR COUNTRY VISITED CHINA
FROM TIME TO TIME AMONG THEM ARYASAM-
BATHA KUNNAPATHA BODHICHANDRA AND
JYAGHATA BECAME VERY FAMOUS



THESE INDIAN SCHOLARS NOT ONLY CARRIED
BAGGY SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPTS WITH THEM
WHICH THEY TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE BUT
SOME OF THEM ALSO MADE ORIGINAL BOOKS
IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE

MANY INDIAN ARTISANS WERE
 FORCED BY THE BRITISH TO
 LEAVE CAVES, TO PAINT FRESCOS
 AND TO MAKE BUDDHA'S IMAGES



WITH THE DECLINE OF BUDDHISM
 IN INDIA, VISITS OF MONKS AND
 TEACHERS TO CHINA
 PRACTICALLY STOPPED.



IN 1921, THE
 BRITISH GOVERNMENT
 IN INDIA
 DECIDED TO
 REBUILD THE
 CAVE



THEN IN 1921
 THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
 IN INDIA
 DECIDED TO
 REBUILD THE
 CAVE



THEY WERE THE FIRST
 TO VISIT THE CAVE
 SINCE THE
 BRITISH GOVERNMENT
 IN INDIA
 DECIDED TO
 REBUILD THE
 CAVE



BAPAT, YOU ARE
'DO DO D FOR
YOUR OWN
GOOD!

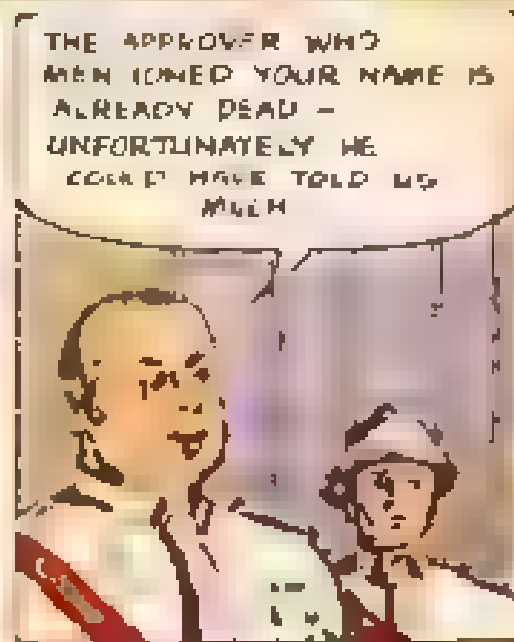


MR CLEVELAND PRODUCE
ME IN A COURT OF LAW IF
YOU CAN PROVE THAT I HAD
A HAND IN THE BOMB
CASE



AT THE POLICE AND ESTABLISH NOTHING
AGAINST BAPAT

AS IT WE RELEASE YOU YOUR
BROTHER IN LAW HAS GAINED A
KIND FROM FOUR HUNDRED
THOUSAND ON YOUR BEHALF



THE APPROVER WHO
MENTIONED YOUR NAME IS
ALREADY DEAD -
UNFORTUNATELY HE
COULD HAVE TOLD US
MUCH



AND MR. HARRY RETURNED HOME

WELCOME HOME,
SON!

BAPAT TAKES UP THE BROOM

IN PARKER, THE HAND THAT HAD BROUGHT THE BOMB TO INDIA TOOK UP A NEW WEAPON



AT FIRST, BAPAT'S FATHER WAS UNHAPPY

SWEEPING STREETS AND
CLEANING GUTTERS! SON,
HOW CAN I APPROVE OF
SUCH WORK?



FATHER, AS PART OF YOUR
WORSHIP YOU CLEAN LORD
GANESHA'S ALTAR EVERY
DAY DON'T YOU?



FOR ME, THE PEOPLE ARE
GANESHA, THE COUNTRY
IS HIS ALTAR AND TO
KEEP IT CLEAN, MY
WORSHIP



CARRY ON YOUR GREAT
WORK, MY SON WITH
MY BLESSINGS.



THE MULSHI UPRISING

ONE MORNING, TWO FRIENDS MET BAPAT AT HIS HOUSE. AT MULSHIPET, NEAR PUNE, THE TATA ELECTRIC COMPANY HAD PLANNED TO BUILD A DAM ACROSS THE RIVER AT MULSHI. THIS WAS OPPOSED BY THE PEASANTS WHOSE LAND WOULD BE SUBMERGED.

DID YOU READ ABOUT THE VIOLENCE AT MULSHIPET?

YES. IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE.

BECAUSE THIS DAM WILL BE A BOON TO THE COUNTRY

BUT AT WHAT COST?

BAPAT, I ADVISE YOU TO MEET THE PEASANTS AND TALK TO THEM. ONLY THEN WILL YOU REALISE THEIR FLIGHT

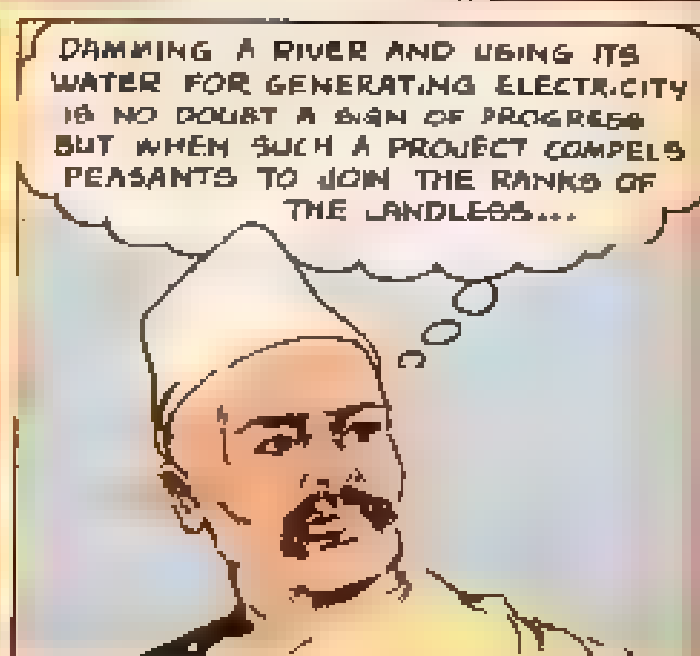
I WILL.

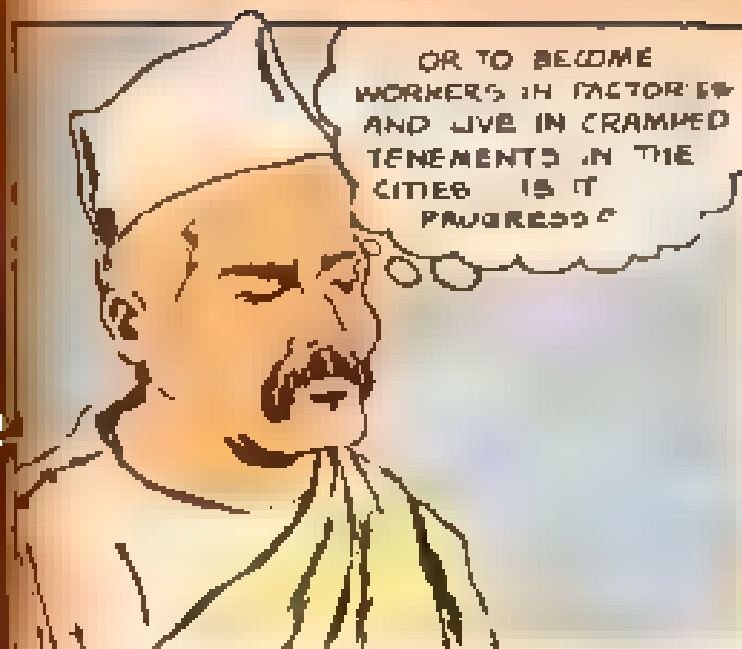
BAPAT VISITED ALL THE FIFTY-FOUR VILLAGES WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT.

NOW CAN WE LEAVE THIS LAND, SIR? THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN. THIS IS THE LAND TILLED BY MY GRANDFATHER AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM.

SIR, EVEN BEFORE I AGREED TO GIVE UP MY LAND THEY OCCUPIED MY FIELD AND BEGAN WORK

THEY SAY THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THEM PERMISSION TO DO SO





OR TO BECOME
WORKERS IN FACTORIES
AND LIVE IN CRAMPED
TENEMENTS IN THE
CITIES IS IT
PROGRESS?



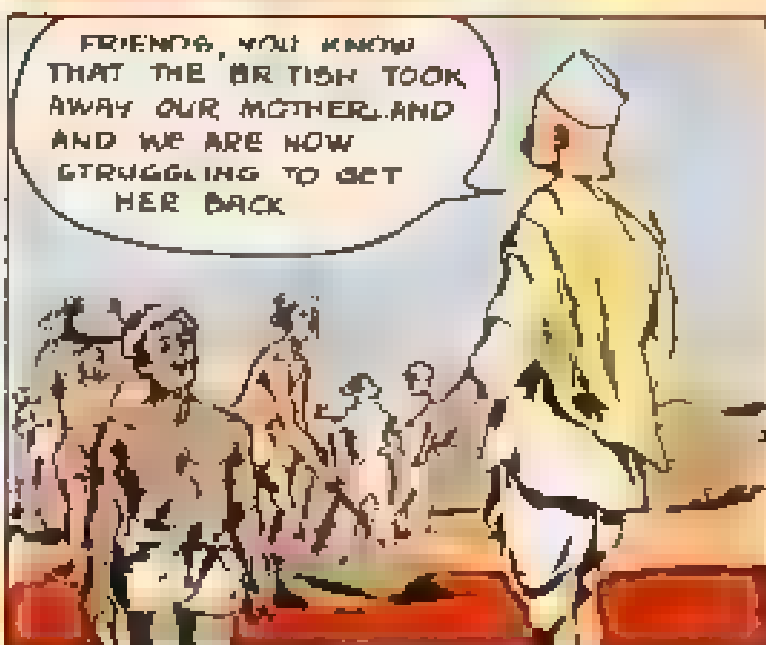
THE NEXT DAY, BAPAT JOINED THE MASS
SATYAGRAH* ORGANISED BY THE FARMERS
AT THE DAM SITE.



BAPAT HAD DECIDED TO TRY NON VIOLENT
METHODS

PLEASE STOP
YOUR WORK,
WE BEG OF
YOU

BAPAT, SPEAK TO THEM!
BOTH TO THE LABOURERS
AND THEIR MASTERS



FRIENDS, YOU KNOW
THAT THE BRITISH TOOK
AWAY OUR MOTHERLAND
AND WE ARE NOW
STRUGGLING TO GET
HER BACK



ARE YOU NOT AS
GUILTY AS THE BRITISH
WHEN YOU TAKE AWAY
THE LAND OF THESE
POOR FARMERS?

NO, THERE ! I WARN YOU
GET OUT OF THERE, OR
WE WILL POUR HOT WATER
ON ALL OF YOU!

DO AS YOU
WISH - WE WILL
GIVE UP OUR
LIVES BUT NOT
OUR LANDS!

FINALLY, THE COMPANY AGREED TO STOP
WORK ON THE DAM FOR SIX MONTHS,
BUT THEY STARTED TO LAY A RAILWAY
LINE TO MULSHI.

LAYING RAILWAY TRACKS NOW TO
MULSHI ARE PREPARATIONS TO
TRANSPORT MATERIAL AND
WORKERS FOR THE
COMPLETION OF THE DAM.
IT IS THEREFORE A
CONTINUATION OF THE
DAM PROJECT. THE
COMPANY IS BREAKING
ITS PROMISE

BAPAT FIRST MADE HIS INTENTIONS CLEAR TO THE COMPANY THEN —

WE WILL REMOVE THE TRACKS
THIS IS MY METHOD OF
NON-VIOLENT PROTEST

FOR THIS ACTION BAPAT WAS ARRESTED

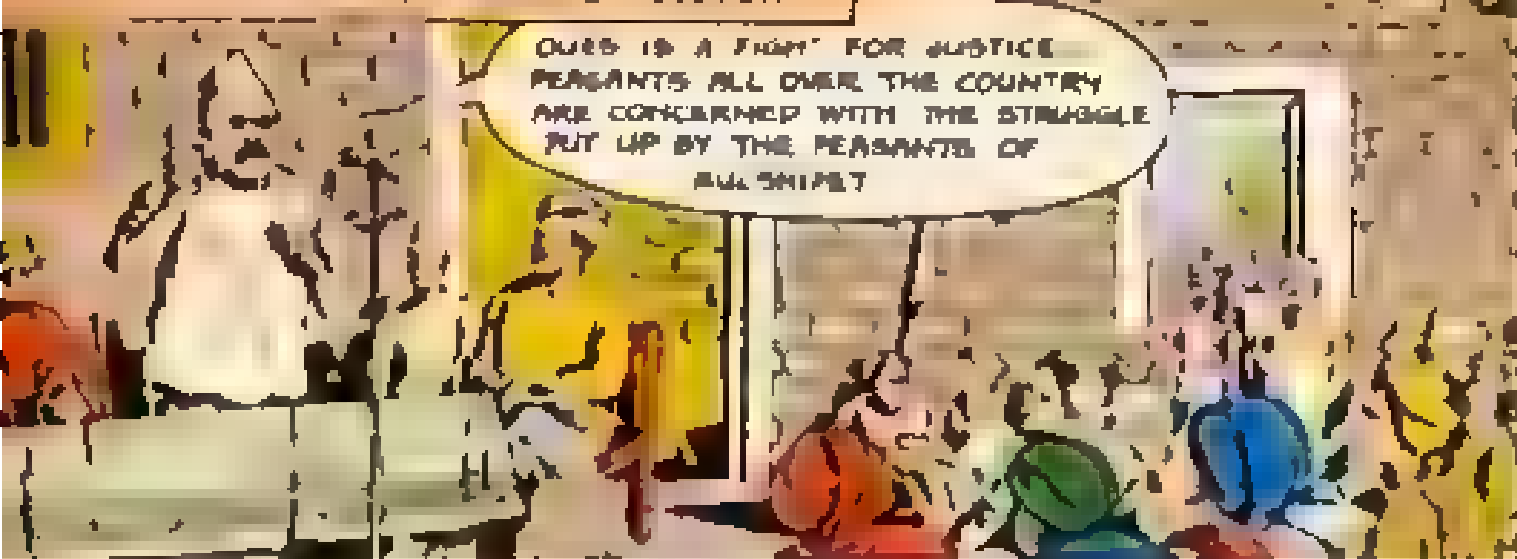
I SENTENCE YOU TO
SIX MONTHS'
IMPRISONMENT

BUT AS SOON AS HE WAS OUT OF JAIL,
BAPAT WAS BACK AT MULSHI!

SIR, FOR OUR SAKE, YOU
BARE A JAIL SENTENCE
WE BEG YOU NOW TO
BECOME PRES DENT OF
THE SATYAGRAHIS.

ACCEPT IT AS
AN HONOUR

BAFAT WORKED CEASELESSLY AND WITH DEDICATION HE TOURIED MARRASHTRA TO
 SPREAD THE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE MOVEMENT



THIS IS A FIGHT FOR JUSTICE
 PEASANTS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY
 ARE CONCERNED WITH THE STRUGGLE
 PUT UP BY THE PEASANTS OF
 BULSHIPET



FOR MANY, MANY MORE DAMS
 WILL BE BUILT IN THE YEARS TO
 COME AND THOUSANDS OF
 VILLAGERS WILL BE DISPLACED.



MONEY IS NOT ENOUGH WE WANT NEW
 LAND FOR THE LAND THAT WILL GO
 UNDER WATER. WE WANT
 REHABILITATION TO MAKE UP FOR
 EVICTION. OUR FIGHT
 CONTINUES TILL OUR
 DEMANDS ARE MET.



WE ARE WITH
 YOU, SENAPATI!

YES I AM UP,
 SENAPATI



BUT WHEN THE HIS SPEECHES
 AND HE DID NOT MAKE SENAPATI
 BAFAT HAD TO GO TO JAIL TWICE, FOR
 SIX MONTHS AND THEN
 A YEAR

THUS A SENAPATI, A COMMANDER, WAS
 BORN - SENAPATI BAFAT.

WHEN HE WAS RELEASED

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
WHERE IS EVERYONE?

SIR, PRODDED BY THE MONEY-LENDERS
AND BEATEN DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT,
THEY ACCEPTED THE COMPENSATION
AND LEFT.

HOW MUCH COMPENSATION
DID THEY GET?

JUST ENOUGH TO
PAY OFF THE
MONEY-LENDERS

AT THE SACRIFICE OF IT,
GIVEN BY POVERTY AND
BY GRABING MONEY
LENDERS, WHAT OTHER
OPTION IS THERE FOR
OUR PEASANT FARMERS
BUT RETREAT?

AND NO ONE IS BOTHERED
NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT,
NOR THE PRESS, NOR THE
PEOPLE... THIS APATHY
IS SHOCKING...

BUT THE STRUGGLE
HAS TO BE KEPT
ALIVE - A VIOLENT
STRUGGLE IF
NEED BE!

SENAPATI BAPAT DECIDED TO USE A
DRAMATIC METHOD TO DRAW THE ATTENTION
OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE TO THE
INJUSTICE METED OUT TO THE FARMERS

THE SATYAGRAHIS WENT TO THE POLICE-STATION



AND LATER, AT THE TRIAL —

OUR INTENTION WAS NOT TO KILL ANYONE. PUNISH US FOR THE INJURES WE HAVE CAUSED. WE SATYAGRAHIS ARE NOT AFRAID OF PUNISHMENT.



THERE IS A WAR GOING ON BETWEEN THE SATYAGRAHIS AND THE BUILDERS OF THE DAM. THIS IS PART OF THAT WAR.

FOR YOUR VIOLENT ACT, I SENTENCE YOU TO SEVEN YEARS' RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT.



AFTER SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON, BAPAT EMERGED FRAIL AND THIN.

WELCOME BACK, SENAPATI. YOU MUST NOW REST FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS.



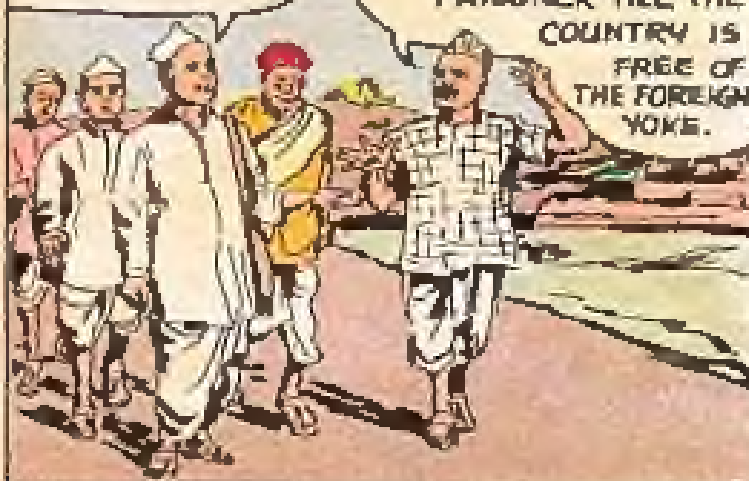
TWELVE MONTHS? TWELVE DAYS, MY FRIEND!



EVEN AFTER COMING OUT OF PRISON, BAPAT WORE CLOTHES SIMILAR TO THAT OF A PRISONER.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, SENAPATI?

NO, I SHALL CONTINUE TO DRESS LIKE A PRISONER TILL THE COUNTRY IS FREE OF THE FOREIGN Yoke.



WE HAVE TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. ONLY IN FREE INDIA CAN YOU HOPE TO PUT ON AN ELECTRIC LIGHT IN YOUR HOME, WITHOUT PUTTING OUT THE LIGHTS IN A THOUSAND OTHER HOMES.



BAPAT SMUGGLED INTO BOMBAY

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE HAD STARTED HIS FORWARD BLOC PARTY AND AT ITS FIRST PUBLIC MEETING ON THE CHOWPATTY SANDS IN 1940, BAPAT WAS INVITED TO SPEAK. BUT THE DAY BEFORE THIS —

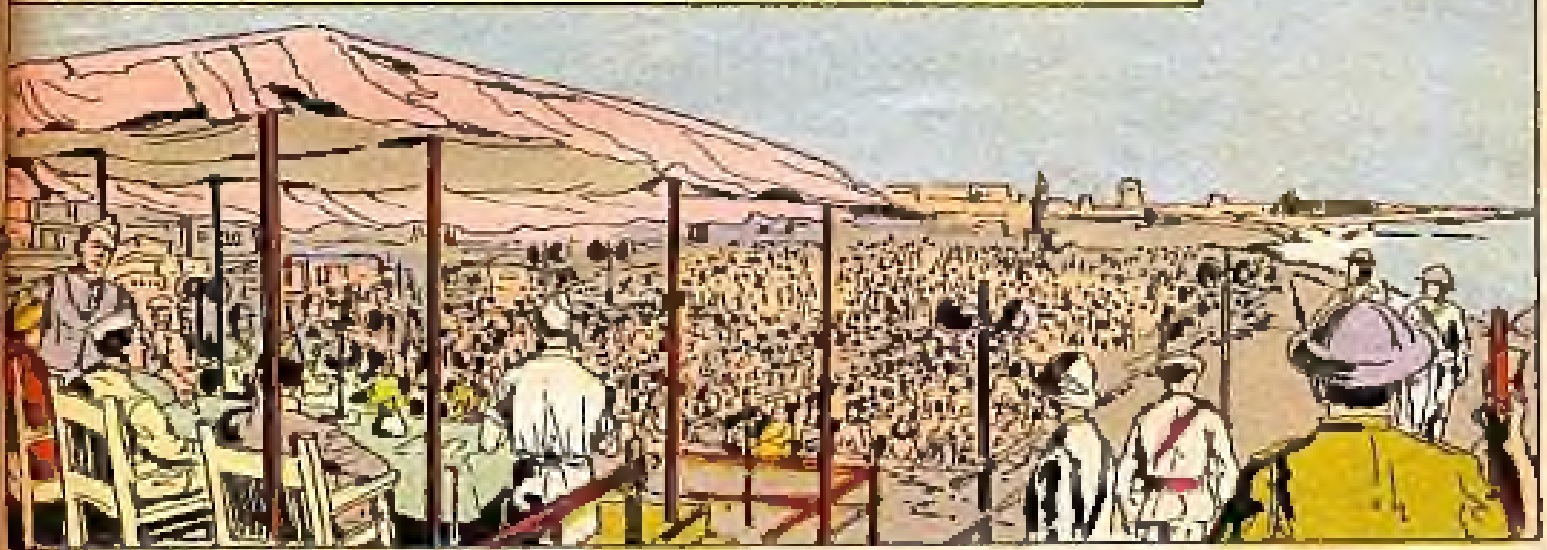


THIS IS BAD NEWS AND WE HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED IN THE PAPERS THAT SENAPATI WILL BE SPEAKING TOMORROW.

WELL, I AM DETERMINED THAT SENAPATI SHALL SPEAK! HERE IS WHAT WE'LL DO...



THE NEXT EVENING, A HUGE CROWD GATHERED AT CHOWPATTY, WAITING TO HEAR BAPAT. A LARGE POLICE PRESENCE WAS VISIBLE EVERYWHERE.



SUDDENLY —

FRIENDS, AS REPORTED IN THE PAPERS, SENAPATI, DEFEYING THE POLICE BAN, WILL DEFINITELY BE WITH US HERE TODAY.

HURRAH! HURRAH!



THE POLICEMEN WERE STARTLED.



THEN —

BAPAT SAHEB
IS COMING ...

A GROUP WAS COMING BRISKLY TOWARDS
THE Dais, AND AMONG THEM WAS BAPAT.

FRIENDS, I PROMISED TO
BE HERE AND I AM HERE.

HERE IS THE ORDER
BANNING MY
ENTRY.

LONG LIVE
SENAPATI !
HURRAH !

AND BAPAT BEGAN HIS SPEECH—FULL OF FERVOUR.



AND ONLY THEN DID THE FLABBERGASTED POLICE ACT.



FOR DEFYING THE BAN, BAPAT WENT TO JAIL FOR A YEAR. EVER GENTLE, NEVER DEJECTED, THERE WAS ALWAYS A SMILE IN HIS EYES AS HE WENT ABOUT HIS JAIL DUTIES.

YOU ARE SO QUIET HERE IN JAIL, SENAPATI. YOU NEVER REBEL OR PROTEST.

OUTSIDE JAIL, I AM A SLAVE OF THE BRITISH—I MUST REBEL AND DEFY THE LAW. BUT WHEN I AM HERE FOR THE SAKE OF MY MOTHERLAND—I MUST BE ON MY BEST BEHAVIOUR.

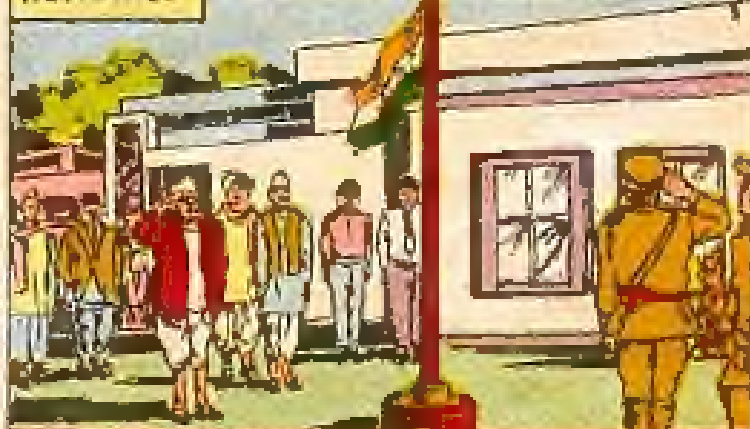


ON AUGUST 15, 1947, THE STRUGGLE PUT UP BY MILLIONS OF PATRIOTS, BORE FRUIT. INDIA BECAME INDEPENDENT.



IN DELHI, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HOISTED THE NATIONAL FLAG.

IN PUNE, BAPAT WAS GIVEN THAT HONOUR.



AFTER INDEPENDENCE, SENAPATI BAPAT CONTINUED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TILL HIS DEATH ON NOVEMBER 28, 1967. HE WAS 87 WHEN HE DIED.